

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system is disclosed for delivering information, preferably electronic television program guide information, to a user over a telecommunications network. The network includes the capability of determining whether the user's connection to the network is in an on-hook or off-hook condition, and the information is received and stored at a user site when the user's connection to the network is in an on-hook condition. Information is delivered from a guide provider to a phone company switch point over a land-based or wireless dedicated line. When the user's phone is on-hook, the guide data is sent to the user site through a splitter. The line splitter provides the signal to a data decoder circuit, the output of which is connected to a data input terminal in communication with a television receiver, VCR, cable box, or other piece of equipment for displaying the program guide data on a screen. The invention is capable of delivering complete program guide data to a user in spite of data interruptions due to telephone calls. The program schedule data is preferably transmitted as n serial packets of information, and the sequence of packets is repeated several times each day. Interspersed between the schedule data is channel mapping data which is also repetitively broadcast each day. In the event of an on-hook data interruption from an off-hook incoming/outgoing call, incomplete packet reception will be detected by a memory management system storage will cease until the phone is again on-hook. At this time, data storage will continue, and incomplete and missing packets will be picked up in the subsequent repetitive broadcasts of the schedule data.